

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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KUZMAN SEEKS TO PROTECT LICENSE BRANCH SERVICES FOR LOWELL

INDIANAPOLIS – State Rep. Bob Kuzman (D-Crown Point) vowed today to press officials with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) to continue license branch services to the people of Lowell and surrounding areas.

Kuzman said he has yet to receive any indication from BMV Commissioner Joel Silverman or other department officials whether the agency intends to reopen the Lowell office, which closed earlier this summer when the branch's lease ran out.

"All I have been told is that people who wish to make their feelings known about the license branch situation in Lowell are invited to attend a BMV public hearing in Gary on August 17," Kuzman said. "The stated purpose of that hearing is to get public input on a plan to close the Gary license branch.

"According to state law, the BMV cannot close any license branch without first conducting a public hearing in the community where the branch was located," he continued. "In this instance, the people in Lowell are being asked to comment on the branch being closed after it was already shut down. I get the impression that the commissioner and the agency aren't going to be changing their mind."

Kuzman noted that such reactions have been typical of the way that Silverman and the BMV have handled the branch closing issue since they first began shutting facilities down earlier this year.

"With the apparent blessing of the current administration, the BMV waited until after the end of the 2005 legislative session to announce it was closing license branches across the state," Kuzman noted.

By any objective criteria, Kuzman said the people in Lowell deserve to have license branch services.

"Lowell and the surrounding communities are one of the fastest-growing areas of Northwest Indiana, and it only makes sense to provide them with the easiest access to critical government services," Kuzman said.

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